

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 766

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to encourage the Tennessee Department of Transportation to collaborate with the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the United States Department of Transportation, Shelby County, and the City of Memphis on the construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River at Memphis.

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2021, the Hernando DeSoto Bridge, which carries Interstate 40 over the Mississippi River between Memphis and Arkansas, was forced to close after a routine inspection found a structural crack; and

WHEREAS, a major bridge on the federal highway system, the Hernando DeSoto Bridge is one of only two Mississippi River crossings in the Memphis area and a vital part of the economic life of the State of Tennessee, Shelby County, and the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Hernando DeSoto Bridge is utilized daily by more than 60,000 vehicles; the bridge's closure continued until repairs were completed on August 2, 2021, causing logistical nightmares for countless businesses and the transportation industry in general and endless hours of frustration for area residents and waylaid travelers who had to deal with the horrendous traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to the future of our great State that the Tennessee Department of Transportation initiate the construction of a third bridge over the Mississippi River between Memphis and Arkansas; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we officially encourage the Tennessee Department of Transportation to collaborate with the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the United States Department of

Transportation, Shelby County, and the City of Memphis on the construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River at Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Department of Transportation is requested to pursue all federal funding available to plan, design, construct, and complete the bridge in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Transportation, Shelby County, and the City of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the county mayor of Shelby County, and the mayor of the City of Memphis.